



5th May 2025

Technical Note

### **Use of Masons Non-Woven Pliable Underlays in Unlined Buildings**

Products concerned:

Masons VHP Roof Underlays, Barricade FR, UNI PLUS, and UNI PRO.

Masons' non-woven, polyolefin-based absorbent underlays are commonly used for roofing and wall wrap applications due to their water resistance, breathability, ease of installation, and general durability. These typically have a matte finish and moderate to low light reflectivity.

While these products are designed to tolerate short-term UV exposure during construction, they are not intended for indefinite exposure to UV light. In some unlined or partially lined buildings, UV light can penetrate the structure through windows, clear lighting strips, or openings such as doors or exposed sections. This can occur directly or indirectly through reflections from surfaces, resulting in gradual degradation of the underlay.

**Buildings with the following features** or characteristics are at risk of underlay degradation due to UV exposure when the underlay is not covered by a wall or ceiling lining (unlined buildings):

- Buildings with transparent roof sheeting, skylights, and windows
- Commercial, industrial, or agricultural buildings that are permanently left unlined
- Commercial buildings with large openings such as truck bays or doors, with or without canopies
- Agricultural buildings with open sides or "lean-to" styles
- Buildings with canopies, unlined soffits, drive-throughs, or large external overhangs on commercial buildings.

**Masons recommends** that VHP Roof Underlays, Barricade FR, UNI PLUS, and UNI PRO be installed only when fully covered or enclosed by suitable interior linings. As the amount of UV exposure in unlined buildings is beyond the manufacturer's control, any degradation resulting from UV light exposure in such buildings will be excluded from our product warranties from **1 July 2025**.

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During May 2025, the **product warranty**, as well as the **design and installation guides** for these products, will be updated to reflect this restriction.

Existing warranties will be honoured, and any claims will be assessed under the terms of the original product warranty.

**For unlined buildings** that have substantial natural ventilation, no underlay is recommended.

For unlined buildings that require an underlay, Masons recommends using **Masons White-Faced Foil** as an alternative to the VHP Roof Underlay Range, Barricade FR, or the UNI Product Range. Masons White-Faced Foil is non-absorbent and functions as a vapour barrier. It is not a condensation control layer in the same way Masons' non-woven, absorbent, breathable underlays are.

It is recommended that designers review the design and installation guide for Masons White-Faced Foil and ensure there is sufficient ventilation to suit the building's intended use and manage resulting condensation. Clear panels or windows specified should be UV-blocking.

Masons White-Faced Foil is robust and will reflect light, reducing the damaging effects of UV exposure. Masons recommends that any areas exposed to direct sunlight or significant reflected sunlight (UV light) be lined to ensure durability.

White-Faced Foil is not suitable for use as an underlay in residential buildings, or in unlined buildings that may later be converted to residential use.

Arthur Whitfield,

NZ Sales & Technical Manager

Mason's NZ Ltd

May 2025